Centrally sponsored Schemes for improvements of the canals in their territory. In the context of need to develop this canal as a continuous waterway for navigational purposes, the State Governments of Andhra Pradesh and Tamil Nadu have been requested to forward an integrated scheme for developing this canal in mutual consultation. The details of the proposal have not been received so far.

According to the State Governments concerned the anticipated traffic after improvement of the canal is estimated at 4·5 lakh tonnes.

Children drop-outs in Delhi

1975. SHRI MURLIDHAR CHANDRAKANT BHANDARE: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) what percentage of children, boys and girls in the age group 5 to 14 years remained out of School during 1988-89 in rural and urban areas of Delhi;

(b) what percentage of these children are employed in domestic shops and factory-areas; and what percentage are engaged in begging; and

(c) what steps were taken to ensure that children of this age group do go to school in the light of Article 45 of the Constitution to ensure free and compulsory education for all such children and not forced and made to go in for employment and earning including that by way of begging?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF EDUCATION ADD CULTURE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI L.P. SHAHI): (a) According to the latest information available, the drop-out rates for children in classes I—VIII for the cohort completing class VIII in 1983-84 was 30·33% in Delhi (27·29% for boys and 33·98% for girls). The break-up between rural and urban areas is not available.

(b) According to 1981 census about 1·76% children in the age group of 5—14 years were engaged in economic activity in Union Territory/District Delhi. The percentage of children engaged in domestic shops, factory areas or engaged in begging is not available.

(c) The National Policy on Education, 1986 envisages free and compulsory education to all children upto 14 years of age by 1995. Education has been made free at elementary stage by all States/UTs in schools run by Government and local bodies. A large programme of non-formal education is in operation for providing part-time education to working children and drop-outs at timings suitable to them. Under the National Child Labour Policy, a number of schemes are being taken up by the Department of Labour in certain areas where there are concentrations of child labour. Under the scheme, special schools have been set up for providing non-formal education, vocational training, health care, supplementary nutrition etc. to such children.

Action against the Principal, Blue Belis School, New Delhi

1976. SHRI DEBA PRASAD RAY: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Principal of the Blue Bells School, East of Kailash, New Delhi victimised 15 students' of class XII and forced them to pay Rs. 1000/- each without issuing any receipt;